

**BIOGAS RENEWABLE GENERATION PROJECT
FINAL INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURE
March 9, 2018

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The potential impacts to biological resources by the Project were assessed using a five-tiered methodology.

- The **regulatory setting** for the Project was defined to ensure all regulated resources were assessed.
- The **baseline environmental characteristics** were screened using existing biological Databases (such as the California Natural Diversity Database, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Species database, and the California Native Plant Society database) to identify species and habitats with a potential to occur in the project areas.
- **Field Surveys** were conducted by Stantec of the project areas/Biological Survey Area (BSA) in order to establish a baseline understanding of the BSA, as well as to identify potential biological resources within the BSA. The BSA for the Project footprint totals approximately 201.78 acres, and includes the areas of temporary and permanent Project activities plus a 500-foot buffer around the project area.
- An **impact assessment** was conducted for the special status habitats and species that were documented, or have a potential, to occur within the BSA.
- **Mitigation** was developed to avoid, minimize, or compensate for potential impacts to biological resources.

The BSA boundaries and habitats are depicted in Figure 3.4-1.

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- Legend**
- Proposed Gas Pipeline
 - Proposed Water Pipeline
 - Proposed Power Plant Facility Boundary
 - New Water Tank
 - Biological Survey Area
- Plant Community Types**
- California Buckwheat Scrub
 - California Encelia-Black Sage Scrub
 - California Sagebrush Scrub
 - Laurel Sumac-Chamise Scrub
 - Oak Woodland
 - Ornamental/Non-Native
 - Scrub Oak-Chamise Chaparral
 - Disturbed Scrub Oak-Chamise Chaparral
 - Cleared/Developed Land
 - Disturbed

0 250 500 Feet
1 in = 500 feet (At original document size of 11x17)

Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet
2. Basemap: Image courtesy of USGS Image courtesy of LAR-IAC Earthstar Geographics SIO © 2017 Microsoft Corporation
Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand),



Project Location: Glendale, CA
Project No.: 2057123300
Prepared by JT on 2017-07-19
Technical Review by CH on 2017-07-19

Client/Project:
City of Glendale Water and Power
Biogas Renewable Generation Project
Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Figure Number/Title:

Figure 3.4-1
Biological Survey Area and
Plant Communities Map

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3.4.1 Setting

The Proposed Project area consists of three sub areas of proposed construction: an approximately 2.2-acre power plant sub area including a graded area for the installation of two new water tanks; a proposed approximately 0.62-mile three-inch diameter natural gas pipeline; and a proposed approximately 0.88 mile 12-inch diameter water pipeline. The site is depicted in Township 1 North, Range 13 West of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Burbank 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. The Proposed Project area occurs within the existing SCLF permitted facilities boundary.

Regulatory Setting

Federal

Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531–1543)

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries oversee the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). The USFWS has jurisdiction over plants, wildlife, and resident fish; NOAA Fisheries has jurisdiction over anadromous fish, marine fish, and marine mammals.

Section 10 (16 U.S.C. § 1539) provides a means whereby a nonfederal action with the potential to result in the incidental take of a listed species while carrying out an otherwise lawful activity may be authorized under a permit. Application procedures are found in 50 C.F.R. Parts 13 and 17 for species under jurisdiction of the USFWS and 50 C.F.R. Parts 217, 220, and 222 for species under the jurisdiction of the NOAA Fisheries.

Consultation with the USFWS would be necessary if a proposed action may affect suitable habitat for a federally listed species such as Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*). This consultation would proceed under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) if a federal action is part of the proposed action or through Section 10 of the ESA if no such nexus were available (USFWS 1973).

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-11) and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c)

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BAGEPA) (16 USC Section 668) of 1918 protect certain species of birds from direct "take". The MBTA states that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, transport, import, or kill any migratory bird (USFWS 1918). The BAGEPA makes it illegal to import, export, take (which includes molest or disturb), sell, purchase, or barter any bald eagle or golden eagle or part thereof (USFWS 1940).

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State

California Endangered Species Act

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has jurisdiction over species listed as threatened or endangered under Section 2080 of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Code. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) prohibits take of state-listed threatened and endangered species. The state Act differs from the federal Act in that it does not include habitat destruction in its definition of take. The CDFW defines take as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill." The CDFW may authorize take under the CESA through Section 2081 (b) incidental take permit. If the results of a biological survey indicate that a state-listed species would be affected by the project, the CDFW can issue an incidental take permit under Section 2081 of the CDFG Code and would establish a Memorandum of Understanding for the protection of state-listed species (CDFW 2016a). CDFW also maintains lists for Candidate-Endangered Species and Candidate-Threatened Species. California Candidate Species are afforded the same level of protection as listed species (CDFW 2016b).

California Special Species of Concern and Fully Protected Species

California designates Species of Special Concern (SSC) as species of limited distribution, declining populations, diminishing habitat, or unusual scientific, recreational, or educational values. These species do not have the same legal protection as listed species, but may be added to official lists in the future (CDFW 2016a). In the 1960's, California created a designation to provide additional protection to rare species. This designation remains today and is referred to as "Fully Protected" species, and those listed "may not be taken or possessed at any time" (CDFW 2016a).

California Department of Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800: Nesting Migratory Bird and Raptors

Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 of the CDFG Code prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests, or eggs. Implementation of the take provisions requires that project-related disturbance within active nesting territories be reduced or eliminated during critical phases of the nesting cycle (approximately February 1–August 31). Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort (e.g., killing or abandonment of eggs or young), or the loss of habitat upon which birds are dependent, is considered a "taking", and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment (CDFW 2016b). Such a taking would also violate federal law protecting migratory birds (e.g., MBTA above).

California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15380

CEQA Guidelines section 15380(b) provides that a species not listed on the federal or state list of protected species may be considered rare or endangered if the species can be shown to meet

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certain specific criteria. This section was included in the guidelines to deal primarily with situations in which a public agency is reviewing a project that may have a significant effect on, for example, a "candidate species" that has not yet been listed by the USFWS or CDFW. CEQA, therefore, enables an agency to protect a species from significant project impacts until the respective government agencies have had an opportunity to list the species as protected, if warranted (California Code of Regulations 2014). Plants appearing on the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) are considered to meet CEQA's Section 15380 criteria. Ranks include: 1A) plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere, 1B) plants that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere, 2A) plants presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere, and 2B) plants that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere (CNPS 2015). Impacts to these species would therefore be considered "significant" requiring mitigation.

Local

Los Angeles County General Plan

The Los Angeles County General Plan (2008) identifies Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) containing biological resources and sets forth the goal of conserving these areas. While development within an SEA is not prohibited, the General Plan does require development to be limited and controlled in order to avoid impacting valuable biological resources.

The two SEAs nearest to the Proposed Project are SEA-8 Griffith Park and SEA-27 Verdugo Mountains (Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning 2008). SEA-8 is approximately five miles west of the Proposed Project; and SEA-27 is approximately 3.5 miles northwest of the Proposed Project.

City of Glendale General Plan

Open Space and Conservation Element

The City of Glendale General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element states that the City's natural resources are assessed with the intent to "comply with the requirements of the California Government Code...to develop strategies for their preservation and utilization." Strategies include development of a program for the on-going monitoring of those natural resources identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Natural Diversity Database and those sensitive habitats identified in the Element's biological assessment report, as well as preventative measures which prevent development that jeopardizes or diminishes the integrity and value of native plant and animal communities (City of Glendale 1993).

City of Glendale Municipal Code

Chapter 12.44 of Glendale's Municipal Code (GMC) states that the removal of indigenous oak (*Quercus* sp.), bay (*Umbellularia* sp.), and sycamore (*Platanus* sp.) trees is prohibited (Ordinance

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No. 5719, dated 12-7-2010). The term "remove" includes any act which will cause an indigenous tree to die, including but not limited to acts which inflict damage upon root systems, bark or other parts of the tree by fire, application of toxic substances, operation of equipment or machinery, or by changing the natural grade of land by excavation or filling the drip line area around the trunk. If site development would include the removal of an indigenous oak and/or sycamore tree protected under GMC 12.44, then compliance must be demonstrated. If it is determined that the removal of a local tree is necessary, and it is then discovered that that tree is classified as indigenous, the applicant must file for a permit to remove said tree, pursuant to GMC 12.44.040 (City of Glendale 2010).

Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project is located within the existing SCLF, approximately one-half mile north of the 134 Freeway on Scholl Canyon road within the City of Glendale and the Los Angeles County area. Elevations range from approximately 1100-1450 feet AMSL. The climate is semi-arid and characterized as having long, hot summers and moderately cooler winters. It is a typical Mediterranean type climate. The Proposed Project areas are zoned as Special Recreation (SR) and Restricted Residential (R1R).

The Proposed Project area falls within the Fallbrook sandy loam series. Soils have moderate infiltration rates with moderately coarse textures. Soils are well drained and have intermediate holding capacity (Environmental Data Resources, Inc. 2015).

Biological Databases

The following information was used to identify and screen for potential special-status plant and wildlife species within the Project vicinity:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records search of the Project area and a five-mile radius from the Project (CDFW 2015a, b);
- The CNPS online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2015); and
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) list of endangered, threatened, and proposed species for California (USFWS 2015).

For each special-status species known to occur within five miles of the BSA, a designated level of "potential for occurrence" was assigned. These levels are defined as follows:

- **No Potential to Occur:** Species have not been documented on or immediately adjacent to the BSA, and there are no known recent or historical appearances within five miles of the BSA. The BSA does not contain suitable habitat for the species and/or lies outside the known range of the species.

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- **Low Potential to Occur:** Species have not been documented on or immediately adjacent to the BSA, and there are no known recent or historical appearances within one to two miles of the BSA. The BSA contains little suitable habitat for the species but lies within the known range of the species.
- **Moderate Potential to Occur:** Species have not been documented on or adjacent to the BSA and there are no known recent appearances within one to two miles of the BSA. However, the BSA contains some suitable habitat for the particular species.
- **High Potential to Occur:** Species have not been documented on or adjacent to the BSA, yet species have been documented in similar habitat types within the vicinity of the BSA and ideal habitat conditions exist within the BSA.
- **Known to Occur:** Species have previously been documented on or immediately adjacent to the BSA.
- **Present:** Species were observed within the BSA during field surveys.

For the purpose of this IS/MND, special status species are defined as:

- Species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 17.12 for listed plants, 50 CFR 17.11 for listed animals, and various notices in the Federal Register for proposed species).
- Species that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under ESA (67 FR 40657, June 13, 2002).
- Species that are listed or proposed for listing by California as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (14 CCR 670.5).
- Plants listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act of 1977 (California Fish and Game Code 1900 et seq.).
- Plants considered by CNPS to be "rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere" (CNPS Rank 1 species).
- Plants considered by CNPS to be "rare, threatened, or endangered in California and common elsewhere" (CNPS Rank 2 species).
- Species that meet the definitions of "rare" or "endangered" under State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14 § 15380).
- Animal species of special concern to CDFW.

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- Plant and animal species that are designated as “special animals” and “those of greatest conservation need” by CDFW through the CNDDDB.

Biological Field Surveys

Stantec conducted three biological reconnaissance surveys of the BSA, on October 21, 2015, November 3, 2015, January 15, 2016, and July 11, 2017, in order to establish a baseline understanding of the BSA, as well as to identify potential biological resources within the BSA (Stantec, 2016). Additionally, seasonally timed rare plant surveys were conducted on January 15, April 15 and September 8, 2016 per agency protocol (CDFW 2009). A detailed analysis can be found in the Biological Resources Technical Report in Appendix B.

Vegetation Communities

The BSA supports seven major types of vegetation communities, six of which are native and one is non-native/ornamental. These communities are described below and in greater detail in the Biological Resources Technical Report (Stantec 2016), as well as depicted in Figure 3.4-1. Per CDFW, plant alliances with state ranks of S1-S3 and all associations within them are considered to be highly imperiled (S1) to vulnerable (S3). Impacts to high-quality occurrences of S1, S2 and S3 communities may be considered significant under CEQA. Some S4 communities are also protected.

One sensitive habitat, Coast Live Oak Woodland, is present within the BSA. Individual Scrub Oaks present within the Scrub Oak-Chamise Chaparral plant community are protected from removal, damage, or encroachment under the Indigenous (Protected) Tree Report Program.

Laurel Sumac-Chamise Scrub (*Malosma laurina*-*Adenostoma fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance)

Laurel sumac-chamise scrub was observed along the slopes south of the proposed power plant and gas pipeline sub areas, as well as to the north of the proposed water pipeline north of Glenoaks Boulevard. Co-dominant species observed were laurel sumac and chamise. Associated species observed at the time of survey included lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), bush monkeyflower (*Diplacus linearis*), big-pod ceanothus (*Ceanothus megacarpus*), California brickellbush (*Brickellia californica*), and non-native Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*).

California Buckwheat Scrub (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance)

California buckwheat scrub was observed along portions of the southern border of the proposed power plant sub area, as well as north of the proposed water pipeline sub area. Associated species observed at the time of survey included bush monkeyflower, black sage,

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California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*), sawtooth goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), and non-native black mustard (*Brassica nigra*).

California sagebrush scrub (*Artemisia californica* Shrubland Alliance)

California sagebrush scrub was observed at the time of survey within a small portion of the proposed power plant sub area in the north corner. Associated species observed at the time of survey included California buckwheat, Russian thistle and non-native grasses.

Scrub Oak-Chamise Chaparral (*Quercus berberidifolia*-*Adenostoma fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance)

Scrub oak-chamise chaparral was observed along the northwestern portion of the BSA. Associated species observed at the time of survey included toyon, California buckwheat, bush monkeyflower, California sagebrush, big-pod ceanothus, and hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*).

Coast live oak woodland (*Quercus agrifolia* Woodland Alliance)

Coast live oak woodland was observed directly south of a small portion of the proposed gas pipeline sub area, approximately 200 feet east of the western terminus of the pipeline. At the time of survey, toyon and laurel sumac were observed interspersed with the oaks.

California encelia-black sage scrub (*Encelia californica*-*Salvia mellifera* Shrubland Alliance)

California encelia-black sage scrub was observed south of the proposed water pipeline sub area and north of the proposed gas pipeline sub area approximately one half mile northwest of the proposed power plant sub area. Co-dominant species observed were California encelia and black sage. Associated species observed at the time of survey included laurel sumac, chamise, and native and non-native grasses.

Ornamental/Non-native

Ornamental and non-natives were observed between and along portions of the proposed water and gas pipeline sub areas approximately one third mile west of the proposed power plant sub area. Associated species observed at the time of survey included iceplant (*Caprobrotus edulis*), Peruvian pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), Washington fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), Russian thistle, red stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), Lamb's quarters (*Chenopodium album*), fountaingrass (*Pennisetum setaceum*), English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), wild oat (*Avena* sp.), pampas grass (*Cortaderia* sp.), and California Encelia.

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Cleared/Developed Land

Cleared and developed lands were observed throughout, and were comprised of bare, graded land, soil piles, dirt access roads, paved roads, residential and industrial buildings, a baseball field, and golf course.

Special Status Plants

A species site suitability analysis evaluating the potential to occur within the BSA was completed for all plant species that were documented in the background research data compilation and during biological surveys. This analysis weighed Project ecological characteristic and suitability with individual species suitability requisites; including vegetation community type, habitat availability, elevation, soils, and known occurrences near the BSA documented in CNDDDB (CDFW, 2015a), CNPS (CNPS, 2015), and CalFlora (Calflora, 2015). With the analysis results, a level for potential for occurrence within the BSA was applied to each species. Based on desktop research, of the 25-species identified, six special-status plant species have a moderate potential to occur: Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), slender mariposa-lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*), Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*), mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*), Davidson's bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus davidsonii*), and white rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*). Additional details are provided below in Table 3.4-1. For a complete list of plants observed within the BSA refer to the table in Appendix B. No special-status plant species were observed within the Project impact areas during the seasonally timed special-status plant surveys conducted on January 15, April 15, and September 8, 2016.

Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*)

Regulatory Status: Federally Endangered, State Endangered, California Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) 1B.1.

Nevin's barberry is a native evergreen shrub endemic to California. It grows to a height of 1 to 4 meters. Its leaves are serrated with spine-tipped edges, and it produces yellow flowers followed by red or yellow-red berries. It blooms between March and June, and is typically found between elevations of 290 to 1575 meters. The species prefers chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub. It occurs on steep, north-facing slopes, or along low grade, sandy washes.

The Project sub areas provide moderately suitable chaparral habitat for the species. Nevin's barberry was not detected during the seasonal floristic surveys conducted within the appropriate bloom period for the species.

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Slender mariposa-lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*)

Regulatory Status: California Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) 1B.2.

Slender mariposa-lily is a perennial bulbiferous herb. It blooms between March and June, and is typically found within an elevation range of 320 to 1000 meters. It has slender, straight stems with yellow flowers that have a reddish-brown line above the nectary. Leaves are not recurved. The species is typically found in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and shady foothill canyons. It prefers grassy slopes within other habitats.

The Project sub areas provide moderately suitable chaparral habitat for the species. Slender mariposa-lily was not detected during the seasonal floristic surveys conducted within the appropriate bloom period for the species.

Parry's spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*)

Regulatory Status: California Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) 1B.1.

Parry's spineflower is an annual herb. It blooms between April and June, and is typically found between 225 to 1220 meters. The species is typically found in coastal scrub, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. It prefers dry slopes and flats, and is sometimes found at the interface of two vegetation types, such as chaparral and oak woodland. It prefers dry, sandy soils.

The Project sub areas provide moderately suitable chaparral habitat with dry slopes and sandy soil. Parry's spineflower was not detected during the seasonal floristic surveys conducted within the appropriate bloom period for the species.

Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*)

Regulatory Status: California Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) 1B.1.

Mesa horkelia is a perennial herb. It blooms between February and July, and is typically found between 70 to 810 meters. The species prefers chaparral, cismontane woodland and coastal scrub, within sandy or gravelly sites.

The Project sub areas provide moderate chaparral and sandy habitat. Mesa horkelia was not detected during the seasonal floristic surveys conducted within the appropriate bloom period for the species.

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Davidson's bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus davidsonii*)

Regulatory Status: California Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) 1B.2.

Davidson's bush-mallow is a shrub with stout stems, rounded leaf blades, and pale pink, purple or white flowers. It blooms between June and January, and is typically found between 185-855 meters. The species prefers coastal scrub, riparian woodland, chaparral and cismontane woodland, and sandy washes.

The Project sub areas provide moderate chaparral and sandy habitat suitable for the species. Davidson's bush-mallow was not detected during the seasonal floristic surveys conducted within the appropriate bloom period for the species.

White rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*)

Regulatory Status: California Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) 2B.2.

White rabbit-tobacco is a perennial herb. It blooms between August and November, and is typically found between 0 to 2100 meters. The species prefers riparian woodland, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub and chaparral within sandy, gravelly sites.

The Project sub areas provide moderate chaparral and sandy habitat suitable for the species. White rabbit-tobacco was not detected during the seasonal floristic surveys conducted within the appropriate bloom period for the species.

Special Status Wildlife

A species site suitability analysis evaluating the potential for a species to occur within the BSA was completed for all wildlife species documented during the biological surveys and background research data compilation. In addition, nesting migratory birds are assessed as having a moderate potential to occur (i.e., ground nesting birds). Based on desktop research, of the 21-species identified, two special-status wildlife species were found to have moderate potential to occur within the BSA: coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), and silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*). Additional detail is provided below in Table 3.4-1. For a complete list of wildlife species observed within the BSA please refer to Appendix B.

Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*)

Regulatory Status: California Species of Special Concern.

No coast horned lizard was observed within the BSA during the reconnaissance surveys. Portions of the Project area provides moderate habitat suitability for the species, including open, loose soil areas, presence of grasses, scattered bushes and shrubs, and ants and other prey insects.

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Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*)

Regulatory Status: California Species of Special Concern.

No silvery legless lizards were detected during the field reconnaissance survey of the BSA. The species is considered to have a moderate potential to be present within the vegetated portions of the BSA, particularly the gas pipeline sub area due to the presence of suitable moist, loose substrate and leaf litter within the chaparral and woodland habitat communities.

Table 3.4-1 Special- Status Wildlife and Plants Screened for their Potential to Occur in the BSA

Common Name/ Scientific Name	Listing Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence in the BSA
REPTILES			
Coast horned lizard/ <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, & abundant supply of ants & other insects.	Moderate Potential to Occur Open areas, scattered bushes and loose soil present within the Project area. The closest documented occurrence (CNDDDB) is two and a half miles northwest of the Proposed Project.
Silvery legless lizard/ <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	SSC	Prefers sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Soil moisture is essential. They prefer soils with a high moisture content.	Moderate Potential to Occur Sandy loose soil habitat with high moisture content observed in portions of the Project area (gas pipeline sub area and areas within Laurel Sumac-Chamise Plant Community. This species was not observed during surveys, and the closest documented occurrence (CNDDDB) is greater than five miles north of the Proposed Project.
PLANTS			
<i>Berberis nevinii</i> / Nevin's barberry	FE SE 1B.1	Shrub, blooms Mar-Jun. Found on nearly flat sandy washes, terraces, and canyon floors to ridges and mountain summits. Also found in mesic habitats and plant communities such as alluvial scrub, chamise chaparral, coastal sage	Moderate Potential to Occur Chamise habitat present in the Project sub areas. This species was not detected during surveys, although there are CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the Proposed Project.

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Common Name/ Scientific Name	Listing Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence in the BSA
		scrub, oak woodland, and riparian scrub or woodland. On steep, north-facing slopes or in low grade sandy washes. 290-1575 m.	
<i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>gracilis</i> / slender mariposa-lily	1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb, blooms Mar-Jun. Prefers chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Shaded foothill canyons; often on grassy slopes within other habitat. 320-1000 m.	Moderate Potential to Occur Suitable chaparral habitat observed in the Project sub areas. This species was not detected during surveys. The closest documented CNDDDB occurrence is greater than five miles of the Proposed Project.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i> / Parry's spineflower	1B.1	Annual herb, blooms Apr-Jun. Prefers coastal scrub, chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Dry slopes and flats; sometimes at interface of 2 vegetation types, such as chaparral and oak woodland; dry, sandy soils. 225-1220 m.	Moderate Potential to Occur Suitable chaparral and dry sandy slope habitat observed in the Project sub areas. This species was not detected during surveys. The closest documented occurrence is two miles north of the Proposed Project.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> / mesa horkelia	1B.1	Perennial herb, blooms Feb-Jul. Prefers chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Sandy or gravelly sites. 70-810 m.	Moderate Potential to Occur Suitable chaparral habitat observed and sandy soils present in the Project sub areas. This species was not detected during surveys. The closest documented occurrence is one and a half miles west of the Proposed Project.
<i>Malacothamnus davidsonii</i> / Davidson's bush-mallow	1B.2	Shrub, blooms Jun-Jan. Prefers coastal scrub, riparian woodland, chaparral, cismontane woodland. Sandy washes. 185-855 m.	Moderate Potential to Occur Suitable chaparral habitat observed in the Project sub areas. This species was not detected during surveys. The closest documented CNDDDB occurrence is greater than five miles from the Proposed Project.
<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i> / white rabbit-tobacco	2B.2	Perennial herb, blooms Aug-Nov. Prefers riparian woodland, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, chaparral. Sandy, gravelly sites. 0-2100 m.	Moderate Potential to Occur Suitable chaparral habitat observed and sandy soils present in the Project sub areas. This species was not detected during surveys. The closest documented CNDDDB

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Common Name/ Scientific Name	Listing Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence in the BSA
			occurrence is two miles east of the Proposed Project.
<div> <div> FE = Federally listed Endangered FT = Federally listed Threatened FC = Federal Candidate FD = Federally de-listed FP = CDFW Fully Protected S=U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species (USFS) WL= USFWS Watchlist BCC = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird of Conservation Concern MBTA = Migratory Bird Treaty Act BLMS= Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species CRPR 1A = Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere CRPR 1B = Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere CRPR 2A = Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But More Common Elsewhere CRPR 2B = Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere CRPR 3=Plants About Which We Need More Information- A Review List CRPR 4 = Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List (CDFW 2015b, CNPS 2015, USFWS 2015) </div> <div> SR = State Rare Species SP = State Protected Species ST = State Listed Threatened SE = State listed Endangered SCE=State Candidate Endangered SCT =State Candidate Threatened SA = State Special Animal SSC = CDFW California Species of Special Concern SD=State de-listed California Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) System (Formerly CNPS Lists) CRPR Threat Ranks 0.1- Seriously threatened in California (over 80 percent of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat) 0.2- Moderately threatened in California (20-80 percent occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat) 0.5- Not very threatened in California (<20 percent of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known) </div> </div>			

Wildlife Movement Corridors

The SCLF is located within the San Rafael Hills, within the City of Glendale, in the Los Angeles County area. Two other open space areas within the City are the Verdugo Mountains (west and central portion of the City), and the Deukmejian Wilderness Park in the San Gabriel Mountains (northern-most section of the city). Urban development has served to isolate vegetation and wildlife communities within the San Rafael Hills from other open space and park areas.

The Project is approximately five miles southeast from the Verdugo Mountains and approximately eight miles south of the Deukmejian Wilderness Park. Mammalian carnivores are not typically deterred by the open conditions within the landfill areas because they are less dependent on cover. Although some species may use the SCLF for movement, the majority of species have been known to avoid the area and use the more natural adjacent canyons and watersheds. It is likely that the ridgelines on and off the SCLF property would serve as the principal wildlife movement and dispersal corridors for most species found on or in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Project, and species will not need to cross through open, disturbed areas of the SCLF (Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County & AECOM 2014).

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The Pacific Flyway, a major bird migration route, passes through California from Oregon to the north and Mexico to the south. The Project does not fall within the Pacific Flyway's major or principal bird migration routes.

3.4.2 Impact Analysis

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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- a) *Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

This section describes direct and indirect impacts to protected biological resources resulting from implementation (construction and operation) of the Proposed Project. From a standpoint of regulatory significance, direct impacts are defined as disturbances and destruction to species or their habitats and are those potential effects that may contribute to a "take" of listed species or critical habitat as a result of the Proposed Project. Specifically, direct impacts are those that are caused by the Proposed Project and occur at the same time and place (40 CFR 1508.8). Direct effects can include direct mortality, removal of foraging habitat, and degradation of habitats.

Indirect impacts are defined as effects that typically occur later in time but are reasonably certain to occur from the Proposed Project (40 CFR 1508.8). Indirect impacts can include degradation of adjacent habitats and fragmentation of habitats. Temporary impacts are defined as those that are short-term in scope and reversible and permanent impacts are those that are generally long-term and irreversible.

Direct and indirect impacts to sensitive biological resources for development of the Proposed Project would be reduced to less than significant levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures listed and described below.

Habitat Loss

The Project area contains undisturbed and disturbed habitat that have potential to support special-status species and nesting birds. Table 3.4-2 indicates the estimated direct impacts to vegetation from Proposed Project implementation.

Table 3.4-2 Summary of Proposed Project Impacts to Land Cover/Vegetation Types

Vegetation Type	Estimated Permanent Impact (acres)	Estimated Temporary Impact (acres)	CDFW Nature Serve Protection Status*
Laurel Sumac-Chamise Scrub	0.39	0.09	G4, S4
California Buckwheat Scrub	0.29	0.02	G5, S5
California Sagebrush Scrub	--	--	G5, S5
Scrub Oak-Chamise Chaparral	--	--	G4, S4
Coast Live Oak Woodland	--	--	G4, S4 Cal OWA
California Encelia-Black Sage Scrub	--	--	G4, S4
Total Impacts to Native Vegetation	0.68	0.11	--
Ornamental/Non-Native	0.06	0.92	--
Cleared/Developed Land	1.45	1.13	--
Total	2.19	2.16	

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Vegetation Type	Estimated Permanent Impact (acres)	Estimated Temporary Impact (acres)	CDFW Nature Serve Protection Status*
*CDFG Rare: G1 or S1 - Critically Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state) G2 or S2 - Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state) G3 or S3 - Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction Globally or Subnationally (state) G4 or S4 - Uncommon but not rare Globally or Subnationally (state) G5 or S5 - Common and widespread Globally or Subnationally (state) Cal OWA - Protected by the California Oak Woodlands Act			

As shown in Table 3.4-3, the Proposed Project would result in approximately 2.19 acres of permanent impacts, which includes approximately 1.45 acres of existing cleared/developed land and approximately 0.68 acre of native vegetation. The Proposed Project would result in approximately 2.16 acres of temporary impacts, which includes approximately 1.13 acres of existing cleared/developed land and approximately 0.11 acre of native vegetation. Impacts to special- status species and nesting bird habitats would be less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 through BIO-3. Special-status vegetation communities are discussed in further detail in impact discussion below.

Special Status Plants

As discussed above, six special- status plants have moderate potential to occur within the project area. However, these special status plants were not observed during seasonally timed rare plant surveys. As a result, potential impacts to special status plants would be less than significant.

Special Status Wildlife

As discussed above, two special status wildlife species have moderate potential to occur within the Project area. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, impacts to wildlife species from Project construction and operation will be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

BIO -1: Pre-Construction Survey for Coast Horned Lizard and Silvery Legless Lizard. The BSA contains potentially suitable habitat for coast horned lizard and silvery legless lizard. A pre-construction special-status species survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist a minimum of 14 days prior to initiating ground disturbance activities. The survey will consist of full coverage of the proposed disturbance limits and a 500-foot buffer, and can be performed concurrently with the nesting bird survey. If coast horned lizard, silvery legless lizard or any special-status species are found during pre-construction surveys, a biological monitor may be needed during construction. If determined necessary, biological compliance monitoring will be conducted by a qualified biologist during construction.

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BIO-2: Nesting Bird Surveys. Protection of nesting birds would be required in compliance with the MBTA and to avoid impacts to nesting birds. To avoid impacts to nesting birds and to comply with the MBTA, clearing of vegetation should occur between non-nesting (or non-breeding) season for birds (generally, September 1 to February 1). If this avoidance schedule is not feasible, the alternative is to carry out the clearing of vegetation associated with construction under the supervision of a qualified biologist. This will entail a pre-construction nesting bird survey conducted by a qualified biologist a minimum of 14 days prior to initiating ground disturbance activities. The survey will consist of full coverage of the proposed disturbance limits and a 500-foot buffer. The buffer will be determined by the biologist and will take into account the species nesting in the area and the habitat present. If no active nests are found, no additional measures are required. If "occupied" nests are found, the nest locations will be mapped by the biologist, utilizing GPS equipment. The nesting bird species will be documented and, to the degree feasible, the nesting stage (e.g., incubation of eggs, feeding of young, near fledging). The biologist will establish a no-disturbance buffer around each active nest. The buffer will be determined by the biologist based on the species present and surrounding habitat. No construction or ground disturbance activities will be conducted within the buffer until the biologist has determined the nest is no longer active and has informed the construction supervisor that activities may resume.

BIO-3: Construction Monitoring and Best Management Practices. If pre-construction surveys determine either the presence of special status species, sensitive biological resources, or nesting birds, a biological monitor may be needed during construction to ensure that there is a 'no take' of special status species. If determined necessary, biological compliance monitoring during construction will be conducted by a qualified biologist. The biologist shall be given authority to execute the following functions:

- Establish construction exclusion zones and make recommendations for implementing erosion control measures in temporary impact areas.
- Ensure all construction activities stay within the staked construction zone and do not go beyond the limits of disturbance.
- Minimize trimming/removal of vegetation to within the Project areas.
- Restrict non-essential equipment to the existing roadways and/or disturbed areas to avoid disturbance to existing adjacent native vegetation.
- Install and maintain appropriate erosion/sediment control measures, as needed, throughout the duration of work activities.

During construction, biological monitors will inspect and verify field conditions, as needed, to ensure that wildlife and vegetation adjacent to the Project area are not harmed. The biological monitor will coordinate with the construction foreman and construction crew and shall have the

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authority to immediately stop any activity that has the potential to impact special-status species or remove vegetation not specified in this report. Therefore, with implementation of BIO-1 through BIO-3, impacts would be less than significant.

Impacts After Mitigation

With implementation of BIO-1 through BIO-3, residual impacts would be less than significant.

- b) *Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

There is no riparian habitat within the BSA. One sensitive habitat, Coast Live Oak Woodland, is present within the BSA. Individual Scrub Oaks present within the Scrub Oak-Chamise Chaparral plant community are protected from removal, damage, or encroachment under the Indigenous (Protected) Tree Report Program. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-4 will reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

BIO-4: Biological Compliance Monitoring to Avoid Impacts to Sensitive habitats and native trees.

To avoid and reduce Project impacts to coast live oaks and scrub oaks, to a less than significant level, an arborist or a botanist shall be present onsite to monitor construction within 15 feet of all Oaks and other native trees. Construction shall be avoided within the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ), which is typically 5 feet beyond the dripline of a native tree or a minimum of 15 feet from the trunk, when feasible. When construction within the TPZ is unavoidable, as few roots as possible shall be trimmed, and shall total less than 20 percent of a single tree's root system. In addition, no equipment, soil, or construction materials shall be placed within the TPZ of any native tree. If impacts or encroachment of a protected tree are determined to be unavoidable (i.e., >20 percent of tree's roots need to be cut), the applicant shall obtain the appropriate tree permit prior to any impacts to protected trees.

Impacts After Mitigation

With implementation of BIO-4, residual impacts would be less than significant.

- c) *Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

No Impact

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The BSA does not contain any federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, because no wetlands are present within the BSA, there would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

- d) *Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

Less than Significant Impact

The majority of species tend to avoid the area and use the more natural adjacent canyons and watersheds. It is likely that the ridgelines on and off the SCLF property would serve as the principal wildlife movement and dispersal corridors for most species found on or in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Project, and species will not need to cross through open, disturbed areas of the Project. In addition, the Project does not fall within the Pacific Flyway's major or principal bird migration routes. Therefore, because the majority of species would avoid the SCLF and use adjacent ridgelines, canyons and watersheds as movement corridors, there would be a less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

- e) *Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

No Impact

Coast live oak woodland is present within the BSA and is protected by the Los Angeles County Oak Woodlands Conservation Management Plan (2014). However, the oak woodland present is not within the project area and is not expected to be impacted. Therefore, because the oak woodland falls outside of Project area, there would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

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- f) *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

No Impact

According to the Glendale General Plan, there is no habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan in the City of Glendale. There is, however, a Significant Ecological Area (SEA) program in the City of Glendale, which is implemented with the intention to preserve these designated sensitive areas. The Project site is not located within the city's SEA. As such, implementation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with the SEA program or other habitat conservation plans. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures

None required.